

***Remarks***

Claims 9-16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute similar or broader claims in a divisional or continuation application. Claims 17 and 18 are currently withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected species. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-8 and 19-23 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. No new matter has been entered by any amendments.

***Restriction Requirement***

In reply to the Office Action requesting an election of one invention to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicant hereby elects to prosecute the invention identified by the Examiner as Group II, claims 1-8 and 17-23, drawn to a method of making a diffraction element, classified in class 216, subclass 24. Within this Group, Applicant elects to prosecute Species I, directed to claims 1-8 and 19-23. This election is made without traverse and without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed.

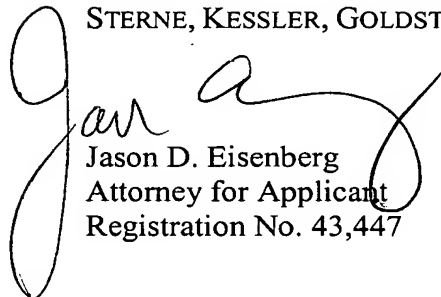
***Conclusion***

Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Election is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 11/30/04

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